NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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MONTHLY MEMO TO: LOCAL PRESIDENTS

GREETINGS FOR 1945! I cannot send you the lighthearted wishes of prewar years, for they would be out of place now. I can, however, wish you joy with your family, joy in the satisfaction of doing your part to meet the demands of war on the home front, joy in believing in ideals for better things in the future, strength to face what may come to any of us when casualty lists are published, and determination that "it shall never happen again."

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YOUR National Board met between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Various committees had been at work for some months studying how we might best adapt our program to the times in which we are living yet hold to our avowed objectives. You will see, elsewhere in this *Bulletin*, the reports accepted by the Board for both immediate and long-term programs. These reports concern *war activities*, for the war is far from won and our activities must continue; *juvenile protection*, for we still have our young folks to consider, and such agencies as the F.B.I. are telling us to be prepared to meet even more serious problems than those we have faced during the past three years; and *postwar planning*, for today merges into tomorrow so quickly that we must know now the direction in which we wish to move.

• For many this is already the postwar period. Men by the thousands are being given medical discharges and are trying to readjust to civilian life. We must be concerned over the needs of these who were our schoolchildren of just a few years ago and for whom we still have responsibility. Home, school, and community must all combine their efforts.

Postwar Compulsory Military Service—The statement adopted by the Board on this very live issue asks a number of pertinent questions. Copies of it were sent far and wide, and many replies have been received stating that our position is one of the fairest and most intelligent yet taken by any organization on this vital question. Study the statement carefully and know what your National Board, after consulting many of you all across the country, feels is the general attitude of our membership. Watch for the bill or bills on compulsory military service that will soon be introduced in Congress.

International Affairs—May I make one urgent request of you? *Please* do not allow yourselves to become unduly alarmed over the recent unhappy events that have arisen in Europe. Germany has declared that she will win the peace because of the lack of unity among the United Nations once the fighting is over. We are playing into the hands of the enemy if we become disillusioned or isolationist in our attitude and say *"What's the use?"* Back up our men; don't let them down. They can and will win the war if we give them the weapons they need and keep a high morale on the home front.

• Winning the peace, however, is a civilian task. Keep steady. Try to learn all the facts before reacting to various disturbing situations. Above all, urge on the President, your senators, and the State Department the need for an early creation of a United Nations organization. The very difficult problems of liberation should be handled by all the United Nations, acting in accordance with the ideals of the Atlantic Charter. It will take many years to establish new governments and new social and economic systems in the liberated countries, so let us begin now. In the days to come our children will be working with those who are now children in these countries, trying to discover and establish the right sort of relationships with them. This is reason enough for every one of us to be interested in the welfare of these children, in the sort of education they receive, and in creating friendly relations between them and our country.

May we all make one New Year's resolution and stick to it: "This time we will win the peace."

And Here at Home—Our regular program must go on. We dare not cheat our children, regardless of the demands made upon us. We must see to it that they have a good home life, that they are educated for citizenship in all its aspects, that they may have and preserve sound physical health, emotional stability, and a spiritual faith that will guide them from within.

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Thank you for the many, many Christmas greetings that came to me. I appreciate each and every one of them, even though I cannot answer all of them personally. I write *you* this *Memo* each month and appreciate hearing from you at Christmas and throughout the year.

Jeannette A. Hastings

President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

Publicize Reports and Statements!

Please give your members an opportunity to read and discuss the statements and reports published in this issue of the *Bulletin*. All members must be fully informed of the action taken by their National Board of Managers on currently important issues if they are to work effectively toward the attainment of parent-teacher goals.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD

IN wartime neither words nor time can be wasted if we are going to accomplish the difficult tasks before us. Sharply realizing this fact, the National Board of Managers, meeting in Chicago November 29 through December 1, crystallized the recommendations of Congress leaders into a program of action on the vital problems of our day.

This is *your* program, for only the consistent efforts of every single member of every local parent-teacher association can carry it to a successful conclusion. Here are the details outlined in full. Take action on them in your meetings, write them up for your publications, promote the program in every way possible. If all our energy is concentrated on the things that matter most, *those things will be done.*

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THE P.T.A. IN TIME OF WAR

THE war activities committee, in the belief that helping returning servicemen to readjust to civilian life will be one of the most important problems of the years after the war, recommends that all P.T.A.'s take the following steps:

1. Prepare the community for the veteran's return by aiding in the establishment of counseling centers where he can find out all he needs to know about jobs, schools, government loans, and other essential matters.

2. Arrange discussion groups for him where he may meet psychiatrists, job counselors, physicians, or other professionals who can help him; and small groups for mothers and wives so that they may investigate and study together the needs of the returning veteran.

3. At P.T.A. meetings and in all P.T.A. publications stress the need for understanding and loyalty toward men in the service and those recently released.

4. Encourage whenever possible the inauguration of courses in colleges, universities, and adult education centers for better family living and for training in government service, both domestic and foreign.

Realizing that children have felt the impact of the war in tragic ways, the war activities committee recommends that P.T.A.'s:

- *Cooperate with the proper welfare agencies in finding foster homes for the more than 100,000 children whom wartime conditions have made homeless.*
- *Study state adoption laws. Make sure that they provide maximum protection for the adopted child and his parents, and work for uniform laws among the states.*
- *See that child labor laws are enforced and strengthened, and encourage schools to develop programs combining work and school training.*

The war is not yet won, this committee reminds us. On the home front the following action is of utmost importance:

- Prepare for the day of victory by making an all-out effort to hasten military success.
- Cooperate actively in all salvage and anti-inflation campaigns as well as drives for planned spending and saving through the purchase of war bonds. See that every person in your community knows what is needed to accomplish these goals.
- Recognize the real problems of racial hatred that exist in our nation today, and work even harder than before for better human relationships both in the parent-teacher association and in other community groups.
- Study the Dumbarton Oaks proposals, and keep abreast of all developments in the planning of the peace. We can still lose the war by losing the peace; and we can lose the peace even before the war is won.

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PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

THE postwar planning committee, recognizing that the future of civilization depends upon the ability of nations to make and keep the peace, favors the creation of an international organization of which the United States shall be a member. This organization must have the power to enforce a just and lasting peace. The committee also recommends the establishment of an international organization for education and the development of an international program for the care and protection of youth. Only through such agencies can all peace-loving peoples be united in a common cause. The success of any international organization depends upon whether we as a nation can embody its aims and purposes in all our daily living and thinking. Therefore every P.T.A. group and every individual P.T.A. member should make an intensive study of all proposals for maintaining world peace. (See the condensation of Clark M. Eichelberger's address on Dumbarton Oaks, page 4 of this *Bulletin.)*

Because the end of the war and the demobilization of the armd forces will bring many new and difficult personal problems into our daily lives, all branches of the National Congress are urged to make ever-increasing efforts to:

1. Organize guidance programs on home and family life.

2. Retain wartime community services that may be needed in the postwar period.

3. Urge the adoption of a system of social security that will ensure jobs, adequate housing, and health service for all.

4. Promote community understanding and mutual good will among the many racial and cultural groups of our land.

Because a system of education that gives opportunity to all people is of great importance in developing a truly democratic nation, there must be increased emphasis on the legislation and the school education programs, in order to improve and strengthen the educational system in terms of:

- *Needs of returning veterans.*
- *Readjustment of the school program to a peacetime basis.*
- *The need to improve the teaching profession and give its members adequate financial support.*
- *The need to develop a building program for schools on the basis of their actual requirements.*
- *Coordination of school programs with the services of the community child welfare agencies.*
- *Modernization of school laws.*
- *Strengthening of the U.S. Office of Education and state departments of education.*
- *Providing for the administration of Federal programs affecting local schools through the U.S. Office of Education, state departments of education, and local boards of education.*
- *Broadening the school program to include all the population, regardless of financial, social, or racial status.*

OF MANAGERS • •

PROTECT OUR YOUTH

THE committee on activities to counteract juvenile delinquency believes that the example of parents and teachers is all-important in determining the behavior of our children and that the security of tomorrow's homes will come from the training of today's young people. The committee therefore urges that education in personal relationships and family life be offered throughout the school years and afterward to both children and adults.

- All persons who have adjustment problems should have the benefit of personal and family life counseling.
- Dependent children should be placed in foster homes that will give them a normal family life, a sense of security, and understanding.
- Children who do get into trouble, should be provided for in detention homes rather than public jails.
- More adequate provision must be made for the feeble-minded, who need institutional care both for their own and for society's well-being.

As an important means of preventing juvenile delinquency, we urge that adequate education on the effects of alcohol on the individual and the community be included in the public school program. Increased efforts should be made to bring about public awareness of the problem of alcoholism as a problem of public health and social welfare.

Finally, those young people who are now holding adult jobs, instead of going to school, and also those who will reach the employable age soon, must not be overlooked in postwar plans for programs of work, education, and recreation.

BOARD STATEMENT ON POSTWAR COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE

AT THE present time the National Congress of Parents and Teachers is studying the matter of compulsory military training, since any item that is placed on our legislation program must be carefully examined from every angle.

We agree that all military needs of the government must be met. The operation of the Selective Service Act will continue to provide a sufficient number of trained men for our country's present and immediate postwar military needs. But when we consider something so entirely revolutionary in our way of life as compulsory military training, we want answers to certain important questions:

1. What plan of military service will be agreed upon by the Allied Nations when the war ends? How many of our young men would form our portion of an international police force?

2. Should not the men now in service have something to say about this matter? Shall we impose a prescribed system of military service while they are fighting for freedom?

3. Can the system of state militia provided for in the Constitution be made to serve the purpose of national defense more adequately than it has done in the past?

4. What sort of training would be involved in the new program? Would it be entirely military? Would it include some more general education? Could military training be integrated into the regular school and college program? Would the program include both civilian and military activity? Would it be flexible?

If the health of our youth is a consideration, then the answer is a comprehensive program of health and physical education from infancy to maturity. This war has shown that neglected physical defects have caused thousands of men to be rejected. One year's training cannot undo eighteen years of neglect; physical fitness should be a continuing program.

Illiteracy is another reason for the rejection of hundreds of thousands of men, but again one year in the army is not the best corrective. The only effective remedy is a program of equalized educational opportunity for all children from their earliest years.

Our patriotism is equal to that of any other strongly democratic organization, but we feel it our duty to know *what* we are doing and *why* before approving compulsory military conscription. Give us time to make an intelligent decision when we have more facts upon which to base it. We oppose a program of postwar compulsory military training *at this time.*

THE BAXTERS — TYPICAL PARENTS

BEING a parent *may* not be the hardest job in the world, but it certainly is in the running. You have to be a nurse, psychologist, psychiatrist, economist, judge, cook, bus driver—the list is practically endless. And even though you read books and articles and listen to speeches and go to P.T.A. meetings—for thoughtful parents are always trying to learn—don't you sometimes say to yourself, "This is all very well, but I wonder what I really *would* do if that ever happened to us?" Then you must meet the Baxters. They know!

Marge and Bill Baxter somehow come up against just about every problem the average parent has to deal with today. That isn't surprising, with youngsters of sixteen and fourteen, as well as a baby to keep things lively. They do their best to solve those problems, and if what happens isn't always according to the book—well, the Baxters may give you some ideas.

Marge and Bill are the kind of people who not only keep alive to new trends and theories but season them with a liberal sprinkling of common sense and humor. There is something to be learned from every situation, and these two are willing to be taught, even by their own children!

• Why not turn on your radio to your NBC network station next Saturday afternoon at 1:30 E.W.T.? (Or if you are not in the Eastern time zone, see your local paper for time and station.) We are sure you'll enjoy the Baxters—and we also think they may be able to help you with your most important job, that of being a good parent.

Social Hygiene Day

Social Hygiene Day will be observed on Feburary 7 this year. The American Social Hygiene Association, Incorporated, its sponsor, invites all local P.T.A. presidents to send immediately for *Calling All Communities*, a leaflet explaining how community groups may use this occasion to initiate campaigns to "stamp out V.D."

Write for this leaflet and for a special kit of program and publicity materials to the American Social Hygiene Association, 1790 Broadway, New York 19, New York.

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AN *Analysis* OF THE *Dumbarton Oaks* PROPOSALS

In the following condensation of Mr. Eichelberger's address local presidents will find not only basic information but specific suggestions for charting programs of action in their local associations.

AN address of deep and moving concern to every parent-teacher member was the highlight of the recent Chicago meeting of the National Board of Managers. Clark M. Eichelberger, authority on international affairs and director of the Commission To Study the Organization of Peace, analyzed the proposals of the Dumbarton Oaks Conference and urged that parent-teacher groups throughout this country take the responsibility for presenting these proposals to the American people. In strong and stirring words he pointed out the implications of these proposals for a world organization for ourselves and our children.

● Here is a challenge for every parent-teacher leader—a pressing challenge that cannot and must not be disregarded. A full discussion of the Dumbarton Oaks proposals is contained in Mr. Eichelberger's own pamphlet, *Proposals for the United Nations Charter: What Was Done at Dumbarton Oaks,* which may be secured free of charge from the Commission To Study the Organization of Peace, 8 West Fortieth Street, New York 18, New York.

THE statesmen at Dumbarton Oaks did not try to set up a world government; they met to create an organization of sovereign nations. In doing so they faced three problems any community must face. Any community must be able to:

- **Give its people political security**
- **Establish the processes of justice**
- **Provide for human welfare, for richer living**

Furthermore, these statesmen faced another difficult problem. They had to harmonize two things—the desire on the part of people for a world organization based on the sovereign equality of all nations before the law, and the necessity of concentrating power in the hands of the nations that have so much of it, for the maintenance of peace and security.

We can see how they tried to fulfill the three functions of community life and at the same time to reconcile the differences between the necessity for a democratic structure and a concentration of power by analyzing the plan set up for the United Nations at Dumbarton Oaks.

The General Assembly

There is to be a General Assembly in which all the peace-loving nations are represented, each having one vote. This Assembly is the policy-making body of the organization. It can deal with any political, economic, or social matter it needs to deal with. It may discuss disarmament; it may discuss the principles of security. But it may not discuss any matter that is actually before the second great body of the organization, the Security Council.

The Assembly determines dues and collects them. This power to control the purse is always one of the most effective weapons for the prevention of tyranny in the hands of any parliamentary body. It elects the nonpermanent members of the Security Council and all members of the Economic and Social Council. It will no doubt participate in the election of judges to the International Court of Justice.

The Security Council

The Security Council will be composed of eleven seats: five permanent seats for the five great powers—the United States, Great Britain, Russia, China, and France—and six seats for the lesser powers, who will sit in rotation.

This Council will deal only with security. It may not discuss economic and social matters unless they have an incidental bearing on the question of security. It will be in continuous session with no other concern than to protect the security of the world. If a dispute between nations is so serious as to threaten the peace of all nations, the Council has power to impose a settlement, to do anything to keep war from breaking out. Then if war does break out, it may use that same power to stop the aggression.

It may, for example, use any means to quarantine the aggressor, but if this is not enough it can use military force. All nations are bound to use their armies at the request of the Council to prevent aggression, and there are other provisions in the Dumbarton Oaks document that ensure adequate military resources.

The Security Council, then, is the executive body of the United Nations.

The Economic and Social Council

Now let us look at one aspect of the plan that a few years from now may be more important than any other—the development of the world organization in the broader fields of economic and social affairs, of human living. Today law and order are our first concern, for in this catastrophe civilization has been almost destroyed.

The nations of the world cannot restore a normal peacetime economy until they are sure of some degree of security. If we can conquer war we can enter upon an entirely new epoch in human history.

Looking ahead to this time the Dumbarton Oaks proposals call for an Economic and Social Council that will assist the General Assembly in coordinating the economic and social agencies in the various nations. Composed of eighteen seats, this Council will make no distinction between great and small powers. It will be the executive body of the Assembly.

U.S. Leadership Essential

Now what can we do to make this plan work? I believe the United States is the key to its success. For reasons that destiny has shaped up at this moment, our country is one of the great physical and moral factors in the world today. That being the case, the world organization will succeed if we give it our leadership. It will fail if we do not.

I do not believe that we should talk any more about how we can improve upon the Dumbarton Oaks proposals because I believe they are fundamentally

(Continued on page 5)

DIAL IN ON THE BAXTERS
Saturdays—1:30 p.m., E.W.T.—over NBC Network

Ammunition for the Battle Against Polio

THE 1944 infantile paralysis epidemic —second worst in twenty-eight years —gives added urgency to this year's annual fund-raising appeal of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, which will take place from January 14 to January 31. President Roosevelt has again consented to the use of his birthday as a climax for this intensive campaign.

The National Foundation has long been in the forefront of the continuing battle against one of our children's deadliest enemies. Stricken communities all over America have benefited from its speedy and efficient aid. But this assistance cannot be assured in the future unless every American assumes responsibility for answering the fund-raising appeal. Vital reserves must be built up against the days of epidemic trial that lie ahead.

"Thanks to the efforts of volunteers joining in the fight against infantile paralysis," says the *National Foundation News*, "victims have been and are being given every chance for recovery. That guarantee must ever be a part of our national health economy."

(Continued from page 4)

set. The pattern is established. *We must realize that these proposals are the most that can be accomplished now and in the months before the war ends.* Let us work for America's cooperation and then try to perfect the plan *after* the world organization has been set up and we have joined it.

A Plea to the P.T.A.

I cannot think of any body more important in the great process of educating the public about the Dumbarton Oaks proposals than the parents and teachers of this country. I cannot think of any better place to hold these discussions than the schoolhouses of America. Nor can I think of any persons who could serve better as local speakers to bring home the facts of Dumbarton Oaks than the members of the parent-teacher organization.

Accordingly I plead with parent-teacher members to do everything they can to set these proposals before the American people. This time, through our energies and our prayers, let us form a public opinion strong enough to give the United States the leadership that its power in the world necessitates. If we can do this I believe we shall prevent another war and enter upon an age of human happiness whose beauty and prosperity we dare not even dream of at this time.

First Board of Managers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 1897. Mrs. Birney is seated third from the left and Mrs. Hearst fourth from the left.

WE HONOR *Our Founders*

Alice McLellan Birney 1897 Phoebe Apperson Hearst 1945

On February 17 the National Congress will be forty-eight years old—almost half a century. When we consider what we have accomplished in these forty-eight years, guided by the conviction and singleness of purpose of two far-sighted American women, we may feel justified in pausing for a brief moment to honor them. As we look back upon the achievements of Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst, the story of their courage and their determination should give us new inspiration for the year of work ahead.

The 1945 *Founders Day* pamphlet is a reservoir of program material so varied that it will fully satisfy the needs of every parent-teacher association—large or small, urban or rural, grade school or high school. Pageants, short plays, acrostics, poems, talks, a chronological history of the Congress, and a comprehensive list of suitable music—all are here within its pages.

Sufficient copies of the *Founders Day* pamphlet were distributed to the state congresses to provide one for each association. If your association has not received its copy, please request it from the state office.

Parent Education

Today the phrase *parent education* is on many tongues. People are asking, "Is this or that being done through parent education?" Some organizations seem to be discovering the possibilities of this activity for the first time, but parent education is no new project for P.T.A. groups. Indeed, our organization has been conducting parent education conferences, classes, and programs since 1897! And one of its finest and most useful parent education tools is the *National Parent-Teacher*.

If your group really wants to expand its parent education activities it cannot find two better guides than the Magazine and our Congress pamphlet *Study Group Techniques*. A sufficient number of copies of the pamphlet were distributed free to state congresses to provide one for each local association, and the Magazine may be secured for $1 a year.

If anyone questions the number or quality of your parent education activities, just point with pride to your *National Parent-Teacher* study course articles and to the many, many members who read and study the Magazine each month. Your National organization *is* doing something about parent education —as it has for years—by providing you with such sound, authoritative source materials. Make the most of them!

WE STRENGTHEN OUR ORGANIZATION

• DIGEST OF A SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPATED IN BY NATIONAL CHAIRMEN DURING THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

Presiding: Mrs. L. W. Hughes, first vice-president

THE seven National chairmen who participated in this symposium emphasized the following ways in which the work of the Congress can be given added strength and unity of purpose:

1. By increasing our effort to secure new members, to retain old members, and to keep *all* members hard at work on the vital problems before them.

2. By forming new groups to meet new needs—such as study groups for mothers of preschool children.

3. By stressing the importance of the P.T.A. to the parents and teachers of high school students, showing them what the P.T.A. can do to aid in the guidance of teen-age children.

4. By broadening the activities of existing rural associations and extending the services of the P.T.A. into unorganized rural areas.

5. By tightening up our procedure so as to achieve that unobtrusive efficiency that only a smoothly running organization can attain.

6. By keeping before all our members the ideals of our Founders—so that we may with new zeal go about the task of fulfilling our responsibilities toward our own organization, our communities, and society as a whole.

"Membership in the parent-teacher association today," said **Mrs. True Davis,** chairman of Membership, "is a pledge of faith in democracy and a promise of hope for youth." She pointed out that we need not only more members but also *active* and *informed* members. The single secret of success in strengthening an organization is for every member to make a full contribution to the work of the group. All members must cooperate; a membership committee cannot function alone. Other suggestions for local membership committees were:

- *Be on the alert in urging renewals.*
- *Call on every parent who has a child in school.*
- *Keep Father in membership while he is in service.*
- *Enlist the mothers of new babies by offering them a guiding hand through our preschool study courses.*
- *Be sure the hospitality chairman is on the job.*

Mrs. Carl R. Brister, chairman of Preschool Service, brought home through personal stories the many poignant problems confronting the young mother of a preschool child today—her youth and inexperience, her efforts to follow her husband from camp to camp, the inadequate housing conditions in many communities, and the necessity of finding someone to care for her child if she has to go to work. "What these mothers need," said Mrs. Brister, "is guidance in trying to understand themselves and their children. We must help them by organizing preschool study groups in every local P.T.A. and by helping to establish the community services necessary to meet their needs," urged Mrs. Brister.

"Never in the history of the parent-teacher movement has the high school association had so great an opportunity for real service as it has today," said **Mrs. Grover Hartt,** chairman of High School Service. The problem of delinquency, accentuated by the war, has aroused parents and teachers anew to the task of providing wholesome recreation and activity as a positive preventive measure. In many units such activity has been the means of doubling or even trebling membership and interest in the P.T.A. She suggested the following five-point program of action:

1. *Promote the back-to-school movement.*
2. *Work for more adequate teachers' salaries.*
3. *Develop more youth centers.*
4. *Emphasize the health program.*
5. *Promote the Allied Youth club movement.*

Dr. I. D. Weeks, chairman of Rural Service, reminded the Board of still another broad field for increasing Congress effectiveness and strengthening the organization—service to rural America. Many rural areas have no P.T.A.'s. The first need is to organize associations in these areas, drawing upon persons genuinely interested in the work for leadership and guidance. Second, our present rural associations must be improved. This can be done by closer cooperation between local and state rural service chairmen and by keeping all P.T.A.'s fully informed on National projects and policies.

Mrs. H. F. Godeke, chairman of Procedure and Bylaws, stressed the importance of correct parliamentary procedure in the efficient functioning of all organized affairs, so that no time will be wasted by confusion or misunderstanding of aims and achievements. "A democratic nation expresses its will through group deliberation and action. If we can train leaders in the P.T.A. to know how to lead group discussions and to crystallize these discussions into action, we shall have made a vital contribution to the welfare of our democracy."

Mrs. William Kletzer, chairman of Founders Day, emphasized the *large* part the National Congress has played in awakening the communities of our nation to the social needs of children. The shining ideals of our Founders have enabled us to create a public opinion so strong and so dynamic that it has led communities to accept their responsibility for the welfare of their children. Founders Day, she pointed out, should always serve to:

1. Make the individual member conscious of his place in this great national organization.
2. Help him achieve a perspective of his part in its service.
3. Make him conscious of the great achievements of our Founders.
4. Help him to become more sensitive to the needs of the community.
5. Help him to evaluate the future responsibility of himself, the P.T.A., and of society as a whole to the welfare of children.

Mrs. John E. Hayes, chairman of Publicity, urged the group to "let the people know" what the P.T.A. is doing. Not one of the plans or activities of the parent-teacher organization can reach its fullest effectiveness unless people know about it. "That is the only, the single objective of the publicity committee," said Mrs. Hayes. "Only as the publicity chairman tells the community of the work of the parent-teacher association is that local community enriched by the work of the P.T.A."

Digests of other symposiums will be published in the February issue of the *Bulletin.*

We have been asked to renew and intensify our wastepaper salvage campaigns. During the coming months newspaper publishers throughout the country may invite members of local community organizations, including parent-teacher groups, to meet to discuss the Paper Trooper program. Since the paper situation is really critical, let us do all we can to cooperate.

WHAT OUR CONGRESS PARENT-TEACHER GROUPS *Are Doing*

Gaining by Sharing

The Sioux City, Iowa, Council of Parent-Teacher Associations has developed something new in their "sharing unit experiences," enjoyed each month at their council meeting. Of their 24 units three report at each meeting, leaving one meeting without this particular feature. The president, or some other representative, of each P.T.A. is allowed five minutes in which to tell of some particularly successful project or to discuss a special problem.

Mrs. Fred Hadley, president of the Sioux City Council, writes, "This serves two purposes—it gives new ideas to all units and introduces to us the president or a leader from each association. It is one of the most popular features we have ever tried."

This plan has enlisted the eager participation of all units and has given them many suggestions for solving their local problems and carrying on their parent-teacher work in a more effective way.

Four Allies Attack Problems

An interesting feature presented last year by the Cleveland, Ohio, P.T.A. Council was a panel discussion: "Four Allies—Home, Religion, School, and Recreation To Attack Today's Problems." Many thought-provoking comments were made by the well-chosen group of representative discussants: Mrs. Mischler, president of the Cleveland P.T.A. Council; Dr. Arthur J. Culler, chairman of the Cleveland Round Table of Christians and Jews; Mr. Emmet C. Smeltz, principal of East High School; Miss Edwina Jones, assistant supervisor of elementary schools; Betty Quirk, a tenth grade student in East High School; and Russell Rizze, a ninth grade pupil in Addison Junior High School.

All agreed that there is a close relationship between behavior in the home and behavior in the school or community. The way one behaves in one realm carries over to the others and is easily recognizable. The person who is happy and well adjusted in the home will be happy and well adjusted in the school, the church, or the community. That it is of paramount importance to train children early in the habits of orderliness, moral rightness and wrongness, cooperation, family recreation, and religion was stressed by all speakers.

Founders Day Panel Discussion

Dear Mrs. Hastings:

In answer to your urgent appeal that our members become informed concerning the bases of international peace and so equip ourselves that we shall be able to voice our wishes when the plans for peace are drawn up, our council of some eight thousand five hundred members is planning a panel discussion at our February Founders Day meeting. To this meeting we are inviting all the teachers and principals as well as our parents.

We feel that we could honor our Founders in no better way at this time of crisis than to put into practice the ideal for which they stood—namely, the welfare of all children, everywhere, and for all generations.

Taking part in this panel will be representatives of the local branches of the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women who are making special studies of the present peace proposals. We hope to have other informed citizens join in the discussion. Our superintendent of schools, Mr. L. G. Derthick, is assisting us in our plans.

I hope this is in line with what you have suggested to the local units. As a city council, we consider it our duty to take the lead in such important matters.

Since I am the mother of two little boys, aged 7 and 10, who will be drawn into the next war or even into the end of this one, I feel very strongly the need for thinking people of the world to rise up and stamp out the disease of war as we are stamping out tuberculosis and other diseases of humanity.

I shall be happy to inform you of the outcome of our meeting.

Sincerely,

Mrs. W. C. Cate, President
Chattanooga Council of
Parent-Teacher Associations

A NEW P.T.A. PUBLICATION

To help groups that are working on problems of juvenile delinquency, the National Congress has just published a new pamphlet entitled *Juvenile Guidance—A Plan for Action.* Sufficient copies of this new publication have been distributed to state congresses to provide one free for each local P.T.A.

Usefully Busy

In a letter of information directed to all board members and room mothers at the beginning of the year, Mrs. Harmon Jones, president of the Brentwood P.T.A., Los Angeles, California, presented a challenging summary of the activities of her unit.

"We donate," she stated, "to the Hazelhurst Seeing Eye Dog Fund; the music scholarship fund, usually 10 scholarships of $100.00 each are awarded annually by the Tenth District to deserving students of music; to the life membership fund, a revolving fund to help worthy students and returning servicemen in gaining an education; and the Yale Street Clinic—the P.T.A. health clinic open to all Los Angeles children. We also help buy clothing and food for needy school children and sponsor our own child welfare work. In addition, there are many other worthy causes to which we contribute. Our safety chairman keeps an accurate check on school crossings, signals, and the observance of traffic laws near the school."

P.T.A. Sponsors Good-Will Service

A special community good-will service, sponsored by the parent-teacher associations of Gloucester City, N.J., during Brotherhood Week last year, is reported to have received favorable comment from all parts of Camden County and to have raised parent-teacher activities and objectives in the esteem of the community's citizens.

Well-planned advance publicity among parochial and public school children, civic and fraternal organizations, and in the public press insured a capacity audience. While six persons representing the Protestant, Jewish, and Catholic faiths, and the home, school, and community formed a V on the platform, Rabbi Philip Lipis, Chaplain, U.S.N.R., stated that brotherhood of all mankind is exemplified in the objective of these six agencies. The keynote of the program was struck by the one who defined brotherhood as "giving to everybody else the liberty and equality of opportunity that we want for ourselves."

Brotherhood Week this year is to be observed, February 18–25.

A CALL TO HOLD STEADY AND TO THINK CLEARLY

Timely statement issued by Mrs. Hastings, our National president

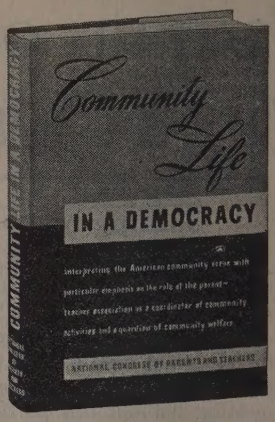
NOW as never before, when events in Europe are being made still more critical by Germany's efforts to create dissension and disunity among the Allies, we have need for clear thinking. Without an intelligent, dynamic public opinion in this country Germany may even yet win the peace, though she will inevitably lose the war.

Mrs. Hastings has just prepared the following statement, echoing this month's message to local presidents, for release to the newspapers and specifically to the Commission To Study the Organization of Peace:

• "Parents and teachers of America, hold steady and think clearly in the present crisis. We fight *with* the enemy and *against* our own sons and husbands if we allow disunity to appear among the Allies. There is urgent need for an immediate creation of a United Nations organization to handle the difficult problems of liberation."

She adds that we must fight vicious enemy propaganda here at home, just as our men are fighting a vicious enemy military machine on the battle fronts. Failure to mobilize and unify our thinking, aided by clever German propaganda, can destroy all our hopes for world peace after the war.

Community Life in a Democracy



$1 a copy

256 pages

A BOOK for those who are concerned with parent-teacher community relationships and interested in making the P.T.A. an integrating force in the life of the community. Contains valuable source material for the parent-teacher leader or member who is conducting or participating in study groups dealing with civic affairs, community health, recreational activities, and public relations. Its nineteen chapters are the product of the thinking of men and women whose authority in their particular fields is widely acknowledged. The book should prove to be worth while reading for every student of community welfare. A comprehensive study guide including questions for discussion and related references adds to its utility.

Order from the National Office

All Men Are Brothers

February 18–25, 1945, marks the twelfth annual observance of Brotherhood Week, the dramatic highlight of each year's program of the National Conference of Christians and Jews with whom the National Congress of Parents and Teachers cooperates. The purpose of this particular observance is to bring a message of good will to all Americans and to commit them, both as individuals and as organizations, to a continuing practice of the principles of brotherhood.

P.T.A. presidents will find many concrete suggestions for Brotherhood Week programs in the pamphlet recently issued by the National Congress and the National Conference of Christians and Jews. They may also write to the latter organization, at 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, New York, for a special bulletin and posters.

Has your P.T.A. subscribed to the *National Parent-Teacher?* Thousands of associations have budgeted a dollar for a subscription for the president. We doubt if any other dollar spent by the association will bring back into the community such a wealth of *sound, important, timely,* and *helpful* information. The subscription price is $1. Make check or money order payable to *National Parent-Teacher* and mail it to 600 S. Michigan Blvd., Chicago 5, Illinois.

Save Tin, Paper, and Fats!

• ***Home Safety Hint:*** The National Safety Council reports that the kitchen is the most dangerous room in the house. Here are a few suggestions to improve its standing: Keep all utensils—especially knives—out of reach of children. Turning handles away from the front of the stove will prevent many burns. Cover scalding liquids before lifting them and be *sure* to use a pad. Before removing lids from steaming pans or roasters, cover hand with cloth and raise the cover at the far side first. Have foods intended for deep fat frying free from water to avoid spattering. If grease catches fire, extinguish with a handful of salt or soda—never water. If grease is spilled on the floor, be sure to clean immediately with soap and water to avoid falls. Apply first aid immediately for all scratches, cuts, and burns, no matter how trivial they may seem at the time.

A PLEA FOR STUDENT NURSES

AMERICA'S nurses have gone to war! As our casualty lists lengthen, hospitals are releasing their graduate personnel to meet the grave military need. As a result there is a critical shortage of civilian nurses that must be remedied as quickly as possible. Twenty thousand more student nurses must be recruited immediately to fill vacancies in the spring classes of the 1,100 schools participating in the Cadet Nurse Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service.

The Corps offers qualified young women from 17 to 35 a complete professional nursing education in return for their pledge to serve until the end of the war. All expenses are paid and a monthly allowance provided. Applicants must be high school graduates who can meet the requirements of the nursing school they select.

See that your community gets behind this recruitment campaign *now!*